

write, suggest, nor request the editorial in the *California State Journal*.

Dr. Duffield quotes the statements in the A. M. A. editorial and asks, "What is wrong with that?" Our answer is found in the editorial in the March issue of this *Journal* where the limitations imposed on the hospital as regards its examinations, and appointments, which are dependent on a civil service list, are pointed out. If Dr. Duffield has had a "delusion" as to the political nature of the Los Angeles County Hospital, the matter should be settled by the Los Angeles County Medical Society. The editor of this *Journal* has not expressed an opinion on the subject.

Dr. Duffield states that Mr. Martin "edits our County Bulletin and our State *Journal*." The former statement is a matter for Los Angeles County determination strictly. The latter is not true. It is a fact that the editor of the *California State Journal of Medicine* does not write each and every editorial in it. He assumes full responsibility however, for each one, and edits their tone and argument. A similar situation exists, to the personal knowledge of the writer, in the case of practically all of the larger weekly medical journals of the United States.

Referring to the last paragraph of Dr. Duffield's letter, we are still waiting to hear any additional facts which would lead to reconsideration. Why not present new or fuller facts, rather than merely attack a well-sustained presentation? If there are abuses in the Los Angeles County Hospital, and if it is essentially political in its appointments, and if it does not measure up to acceptable hospital standards, may we invite all concerned or interested to read the editorial in this issue on Hospital Improvement and Standardization, and further, may we invite them to secure the membership of the hospital in the hospital section of the League for the Conservation of Public Health, which affords an excellent medium to study existing situations, and to work out means for improving them.)

State Society

The general meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California, which took place at Santa Barbara April 15th, 16th and 17th, was one of the most successful in the history of the Society. It was the second largest meeting ever attended. The hotel accommodations were ample and the weather was most delightful. Perfect harmony ruled throughout the entire convention, and the spirit of the event was most happy and wholesome. The Scientific Program was replete with valuable and interesting presentations. One of the big features of the meeting was the luncheon given by the League for the Conservation of Public Health. This was a most successful event and the speeches given on this occasion opened the eyes of the profession to the purposes and principles of this laudable organization.

A full report of the meeting will be given in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal*, and it will show that the Society has made very definite progress in the development of the highest ideals of the profession and in the scientific spirit which should rule us.

County Societies

ALAMEDA COUNTY.

At the regular meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association held March 17th, 1919, the following interesting program was presented:

I. Medical Treatment of Visceroptosis.

Dr. H. Gordon MacLean.

The Doctor in his paper brought out the following points:

Uncomplicated visceroptosis is readily amenable to medical treatment.

The underlying causes are chiefly developmental consisting of narrowed, flattened thorax, depressed diaphragm, undeveloped, stretched out abdominal, pelvic and vertebral muscles, with associated spinal defects. The stomach is usually only slightly atonic and the colon spastic and not kinked. The constipation is due to the relaxed abdominal and pelvic muscles and not to any atony of the colon; therefore cathartics are contraindicated.

The patient is put to bed and the foot of the bed gradually raised to 9 inches. The food intake must be 3000 calories or over, and consists of 3 meals daily with 2 quarts of milk and one-half pint of cream worked in between the meals. Hot compresses are applied for 40 minutes after the meals. General massage, except over the abdomen, is given nightly. Exercises designed to develop the abdominal, pelvic and vertebral muscles, and to widen the lower chest are instituted.

After the rest period of 5-8 weeks, the patient is fitted with a proper corset and instructed to keep up the exercises and the high caloric intake.

Under this regime the weight is increased 15-30 lbs. and the lower chest circumference increased 3-8 inches.

II. The Roentgen Study of Visceroptosis.

Mr. P. L. Ansell.

Mr. Ansell brought out several interesting and valuable factors:

The grouping and correlation between physical characteristics and visceral form, position and tonus was well covered and excellently illustrated.

Of special interest was that part of the paper devoted to the differential interpretation of organic lesions such as gastric and duodenal ulcers, chronic appendices, periceal and pelvic adhesions and the frequency of their occurrence in visceroprotic individuals. Several lantern slides were shown demonstrating the great value of Roentgen study as an aid to diagnosis in this type of cases.

III. Cystitis as a Diagnostic Fallacy.

Drs. G. G. Reinle and E. Spence DePuy.

The authors claimed that Cystitis, except in some instances, is not a disease, but an indication of some other condition, and that a Cystitis may be an indication of pathological changes varying in location from the urethra to the kidneys.

Every case of Cystitis should be proven not to be normal before one may satisfy his conscience that the patient is suffering no injury from neglect. Particularly was emphasis laid upon the necessity of excluding Tubercular Kidney in every case of Cystitis in the young.

These papers were ably discussed by Drs. W. H. Strietmann, Albert Rowe, R. T. Stratton and O. D. Hamlin.

The regular monthly meeting of the Samuel Merritt Hospital Staff Council was held at the Hospital, Monday evening, April 7, 1919.

The program included papers on "Autoplastic Surgery in Fractures" by Drs. W. L. Bell and M. L. Emerson, and a paper on "Irritable Heart" by Dr. A. W. Hewlett, Professor of Medicine at Stanford University.

After the scientific program, a light supper was served and an enjoyable hour spent by those present.

The members of the Alameda County Medical Association were indeed shocked and grieved at the sudden and untimely death of Dr. Ellsworth Bailey March 26th, 1919, at his home in Berkeley. The Doctor was cleaning his gun expecting to leave on the following day for a vacation and hunting trip in Shasta County, when, in some way,